

Lebanon

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FILE

LEBANESE CLERGY: ISLAM ABOVE NATIONALISM

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[Text] Tehran--A prominent Lebanese A'lem, Seyyed Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, said "national feelings should not take precedence over our Islamic Faith," for if this happened there would be disunity appearing among Moslems.

The Lebanese A'lem made the remarks at a ceremony held here to commemorate the martyrdom of a Lebanese Moslem in the battlefronts of the Iraqi imposed war. The ceremony was attended by a number of Lebanese, Iraqi and Iranian Ulama among others.

Seyyed Fazlollah said that the "imperialists were always at hand to sow discord between the Shiite and Sunni brothers" in the Moslem world and warned that the "Moslems should be ever vigilant of such divisive plots."

He said "these imperialists often aimed at highlighting and bringing to the fore in discussions the question of differences between the Sunni and Shia sects of Islam."

"Differences which no doubt exist in the interpretation of the framework of Islam as a religion, have been subtly used by the enemies of Islam to place the Shia and Sunni sects apart," he said. He observed further that this has been so manipulated as to create the feeling that "the infidels are closer in friendship than they (the Sunnis and Shiites) were among themselves."

Seyyed Fazlollah went on to explain that the reason "for the U.S." and other big powers "friendship to certain Moslems could be found in this."

"Despite all the cruelties imposed on Moslems by imperialistic powers, the Moslems have not yet awakened and have not realized the fact that we have one objective in common, and that Islam has the power to overthrow those dominating us," he said.

"Our negligence," Seyyed Fazlollah said, "has made of Islam and Moslems a plaything with which they could do as they willed." He added that the "Moslem brothers who are being martyred in the battlefronts in Iran and Lebanon have completely upset the calculations of the imperialist powers through their bravery and preparedness for martyrdom for God and Islam."

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"Martyrs regardless of whether they are Lebanese or Iranian, or Iranian and Lebanese, have proved by fighting not as representatives of their countries, but under the flag of Islam, that the war waged by Iraq was against all Moslems, and likewise war waged against them by other powers are also against Moslems and Islam as a united force" the Lebanese clergyman said.

He said that "we are living in times when there has been a great Islamic resurgence in opposition to the oppressions of both Superpowers," adding that "Imam Khomeini understanding this with a clear vision and his steadfast stand against both, has humiliated the Superpowers of East and West."

Seyyed Fazlollah said the "Imam was trying to demonstrate to the Moslems of the world that they were a strong force of 1 billion Moslems and should avoid all disunity," adding "It was the Imam's direction that spurred the Moslem masses to gain this spirit of high endeavour to rise against the Superpowers throughout the world and to stop their depredations."

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